

IVPB Overdose Prevention Team

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCE GUIDE



The North Carolina Division of Public Health (DPH) Injury and Violence Prevention Branch's (IVPB) Overdose Prevention Team provides technical assistance and support to local health departments, community-based organizations, overdose prevention task forces and coalitions, and other community partners on a range of topics related to harm reduction and overdose prevention.

The DPH IVPB has a technical assistance team for overdose prevention. The team provides both one-on-one support, group-based peer learning opportunities, and resource development. Topics include syringe services programs (SSP), justice-involved programs, post-overdose response teams (PORT), naloxone distribution, clinical interventions such as medication-assisted treatment (MAT), harm reduction, communication, epidemiology and surveillance, evaluation, policy development, and partnership and coalition work. You can find information about each program area and the support that is available below.

Types of Technical Assistance Provided

- One-on-one support
- Group-based peer learning opportunities
- Virtual trainings
- Webinars
- Resource development
- Coming soon: in-person visits!

SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAMS (SSPs)

The IVPB provides support to programs interested in starting SSPs and to registered SSPs. Topics include starting and registering with the state, annual reporting, the nuts and bolts of running a program, program and inventory management, cultural competency for working with people who use drugs, community engagement, conducting successful outreach, different models for service delivery, funding opportunities, and much more. Technical assistance is provided through webinars, virtual training opportunities, one-on-one calls, and peer learning opportunities. For any questions, please contact SyringeExchangeNC@dhhs.nc.gov.

Available Resources: [SSP Virtual Webinar Series](#); [North Carolina Safer Syringe Initiative](#)

Coming Soon: [SSP Toolkit](#)

JUSTICE-INVOLVED PROGRAMS

The IVPB provides support on topics such as overdose prevention and naloxone distribution in jail, pre- and post-arrest diversion, discharge planning and linkage to care post-release, access to and continuation of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in jails, and building relationships between local health departments and key partners such as re-entry councils. For any questions, please contact justiceandpublichealth@dhhs.nc.gov.

Available Resources: [Using Medication-Assisted Treatment in Jails: A North Carolina Focus](#)

POST-OVERDOSE RESPONSE TEAMS (PORT)

The IVPB provides support on topics such as starting a post-overdose response team (PORT), building care networks, incorporating peer support, centering lived experience and participant input in program planning, program tracking, strengthening referrals, and building relationships between the local health departments and other key partners such as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and local hospitals.

Available Resources: [PORT Toolkit](#)

Coming Soon: [Contact list for NC PORT Programs](#)

NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION

The IVPB provides direct technical assistance on strategies for expanding naloxone access in communities for harm reduction organizations, health departments, treatment programs, law enforcement, and other first responders. Additionally, the NC Naloxone Distribution Toolkit includes a range of resources on implementation of a naloxone distribution program from policies, where to obtain naloxone, template standing orders, and strategies for sustainability. For any questions, please contact naloxonesaves@gmail.com.

Available Resources: www.naloxonesaves.org/; [NC Naloxone Distribution Toolkit](#)

CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS (MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT)

The IVPB provides education and training on evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder using medication-assisted treatment (MAT). Training is available to clinicians/health care providers, residency programs, community-based organizations, and others upon request. Topics of focus include MAT, judicious prescribing of opioids, screening for opioid use disorder, prescribing naloxone, linkages to care, and integrating harm reduction strategies into clinical practice.

Available Resources: [MAHEC MAT Training](#); [Governor's Institute Addiction Medicine Training](#)

HARM REDUCTION

The IVPB provides support on topics such as: the philosophies, framework, and history of harm reduction; best practices for developing harm reduction programs; and strategies for communicating about harm reduction with other partners. The IVPB partners closely with the NC Harm Reduction Coalition in the provision of technical assistance and can facilitate relationships with harm reductionists across the state.

Available Resources: [Harm Reduction Academy](#)
Coming Soon: [Harm Reduction Primer](#)

COMMUNICATION

The IVPB provides support on the development of overdose prevention and harm reduction focused communication campaigns through reviewing draft materials, providing sample campaigns developed by other jurisdictions, and/or setting up brainstorming calls with the communication lead and overdose prevention subject matter experts. Support focuses on using non-stigmatizing language and incorporating actionable recommendations related to overdose prevention.

Available Resources: [Stop the Stigma](#)

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE

The IVPB Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics (ESI) Unit maintains statewide injury and violence related surveillance by using EMS, emergency

department, hospital discharge, mortality, and survey data to monitor the incidence of and risk factors for injury, including fatal and nonfatal overdose. The [IVPB Poisoning Data page](#) has monthly surveillance reports, county-level overdose slide sets and data tables on overdose deaths, hospitalizations, and ED visits. The core overdose slide set, also found on the IVPB Page, has detailed technical notes and a recording of the slides that partners can use in local presentations. The ESI Unit can also respond to data requests and is available to present on overdose data at local meetings. If you have any questions or would like to be added to a listserv for monthly surveillance updates, please feel free to contact us at SubstanceUseData@dhhs.nc.gov.

Available Resources: [North Carolina Overdose Data: Trends and Surveillance, November 2020 \(recorded presentation\)](#); [NC Opioid Action Plan Data Dashboard](#)

EVALUATION

The IVPB provides support on program evaluation through sample lists of key metrics tracked by overdose prevention programs, one-on-one calls, and opportunities for peer education with other programs on their evaluation strategies. Technical assistance is provided on topics such as program monitoring and tracking as well as evaluation design and implementation. Guidance on aspects of evaluation, including instrument design, data collection methods, and data analysis can be provided upon request.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The IVPB's legal specialist provides support on harm reduction policy development and implementation through one-on-one calls, training opportunities, and partner engagement. Current policies include the Syringe Exchange Law, naloxone access, and the Good Samaritan Law.

PARTNERSHIP AND COALITION WORK

The IVPB has started offering technical assistance of partnership and relationship building, community engagement, and expanding overdose prevention and harm reduction in substance use coalitions.

To access technical assistance on overdose prevention and harm reduction through the IVPB, please email beinjuryfreenc@dhhs.nc.gov.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
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Division of Public Health

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